

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A blood ammonia lowering agent containing ~~xylobiose~~ xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 wt% to less than 45 wt% of xylobiose, as an active ingredient.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (cancelled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) The blood ammonia lowering agent according to claim 1, which comprises said xylobiose or said xylooligosaccharide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent of hyperammonemia containing ~~xylobiose~~ xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 wt% to less than 45 wt% of xylobiose, as an active ingredient.

Claim 6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (previously presented) The therapeutic agent of hyperammonemia according to claim 5, which comprises said xylobiose or said xylooligosaccharide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said therapeutic agent has the activity of promoting the growth of organic acid producing enterobacteria.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy containing xylobiose xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 wt% to less than 45 wt% of xylobiose, as an active ingredient, wherein said therapeutic agent has the activity of promoting the growth of organic acid producing enterobacteria.

Claim 10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (cancelled)

Claim 12. (previously presented) The therapeutic agent of hepatic encephalopathy according to claim 9, which comprises said xylobiose or said xylooligosaccharide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 13-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19. (new) A method of lowering blood ammonia in a patient with hyperammonemia or hepatic encephalopathy which comprises administering xylobiose to the patient.

Claim 20. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing xylobiose as a main ingredient is administered.

Claim 21. (new) The method according to claim 19 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 % by weight of xylobiose is administered.

Claim 22. (new) A method of treating hyperammonemia in a patient with hyperammonemia which comprises administering xylobiose to the patient.

Claim 23. (new) The method according to claim 22 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing xylobiose as a main ingredient is administered.

Claim 24. (new) The method according to claim 22 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 % by weight of xylobiose is administered.

Claim 25. (new) A method of treating hepatic encephalopathy in a patient with hepatic encephalopathy which comprises administering xylobiose to the patient.

Claim 26. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing xylobiose as a main ingredient is administered.

Claim 27. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein xylooligosaccharide containing at least 30 % by weight of xylobiose is administered.